FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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EUROPEAN SHELL EGG MARKETS 1/

A potential export market in Europe for shell eggs from the United States during 1951 exists but is limited, according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

As the Department of Agriculture has announced that the domestic prices for eggs will not be supported during 1951, egg producers and marketers may be seasonally interested in the prospects of foreign markets for shell eggs.

Present outlets for United States shell eggs in European countries are relatively limited as the food supply in those countries is much improved. Also, the recovery of the poultry industries in war-devastated countries has been more rapid than other sources of high protein foods. In addition, a dollar shortage exists in most of the European countries where large quantities of eggs are consumed and imports from the United States consequently have been restricted to more needed commodities. Also most of these same countries have devaluated their currency in relation to the United States dollar which makes imports from this country relatively more expensive. There are a few countries, however, in which there is a possibility of selling shelled eggs should domestic egg prices become unduly low.

As the seasonality in production of eggs in most of the European countries is more extreme than in the United States and the flush season is slightly later than in this country, the best prospects for shell egg exports are around the turn of the year when shell eggs might move without refrigeration. The domestic shell egg price in the United States at the end of 1950, however, has been unusually strong and it seems unlikely that appreciable quantities will move abroad.

The United States export of eggs in years past has been only of modest quantities except during the recent war and postwar years when large quantities of egg products were shipped to European countries and there was some increase in the foreign sale of shell eggs to a few Central American and European countries. Export markets for shell eggs in 1950 have been almost exclusively

1/ A more extensive statement will be published soon as a Foreign Agriculture Circular, obtainable from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

into Central America, with Venezuela the principal market, while Mexico, Cuba and Panama received smaller quantities. The Cuban Minister of Commerce recently authorized an increase in the retail price of eggs from 5 cents to 6 cents each. This action was taken to encourage imports of eggs from the United States during the season of low domestic production when imports are permitted duty free. Present market conditions indicate that Cuban egg production might still be inadequate to fully meet domestic demand and the duty free privileges granted to December 15 for eggs weighing not less than 20 ounces per dozen may be extended for another month. In addition to these markets, which are somewhat limited due to their small population, it might be possible in some years to make significant seasonal exports of shell eggs to markets in countries of large deficits in supplies.

The Canadian market for eggs during 1951 will be supported at the same level as in 1950 through a storage program indontical to that initiated by the Canadian government in January this year.

Under this plan the Agricultural Prices Support Board is committed to buy from private individuals late in 1951 all eggs then unsold which have been stored according to Board specification during the period December 1950 through May 1951. The Board is committed to pay 38 cents per dozen for eggs going into storage as Grade A Large and 36 cents per dozen for eggs stored as Grade A Medium, plus a stipulated allowance to cover costs of oiling, storage, interest and insurance. The Canadian officials estimate that the production of eggs during the marketing year of September 1, 1950-August 31, 1950 is expected to be about 10 percent less than the corresponding output a year earlier. Also, the quantity of eggs stored during the flush season is not expected to exceed 9 million dozen, which is 4.8 million less than in storage on July 1, 1950. Generally this would indicate prices for Canadian eggs will be at least equal to last year's level and probably higher. The United States shell egg prices will have to decline to a level approximately 5 cents per dozen below Canadian prices existing during any comparable period in 1951 before large exports can profitable occur in order to offset the tariff ($3\frac{1}{2}$ cents per dozen), the exchange rate differentials, and freight costs. Some eggs were exported to the United States from Canada during early December when United States prices reached record levels.

Egg Prices 1/ in Canada on December 15. 1950
and Previous Years

	1950	1949	1948
	Cents per dozen	Cents per dozen	Cents per dozen
1/ Montreal	56-57	47	51-52
2/ Toronto	55	43	50
3/ Winnipeg	52	42	45
3/ Vancouver	60	41	$43\frac{1}{2}$
3/ Edmonton	52	40	44
3/ Regina	57	37	48
Charlottetown	52	----	46-47

1/ Grade A Large.
2/ Prices of graded shipments to wholesalers.
3/ Prices of ungraded shipments to shippers.

Import supplies of shell eggs available to the United Kingdom are considerably lower as shipments from Australia, Poland and several other countries have declined sharply during the year and imports from Canada and the Netherlands have been terminated. On the other hand imports from Denmark are higher and home production in the United Kingdom has been mounting annually and had reached 113 percent of prewar by 1949. Shell egg receipts at packing stations in the last months of 1950 were running much higher than a year ago. By January and February the expected increase in production will advance the total supply by about 10 to 15 percent. It is very doubtful that shipments from the United States can be arranged during this deficit period even if prices become considerably lower in this country. The limited dollar exchange in the United Kingdom must be conserved for essential purchases less obtainable from other source. In addition larger imports would increase the amount needed to subsidize eggs, as the purchase of both domestic and imported eggs are made exclusively by the Ministry of Food which subsidizes the retail prices. The estimated average subsidy on domestic eggs during 1950-51 is 20.6 cents per dozen and on imported eggs 3.9 cents per dozen. The retail prices effective since October 15, 1950 are: 65 cents per dozen for home produced Grade A eggs, 58 cents per dozen for home produced Grade B eggs and 50 cents per dozen for home produced Grade C eggs, and also for A and B grade duck eggs and imported eggs marked as to country of origin. These prices are an increase of 7.2 cents per dozen. The Australian export price for shell eggs to the United Kingdom is 39 cents per dozen f.o.b. Australian ports. The Danish are receiving about 40 cents per dozen f.o.b during the last of 1950 but the price is adjusted seasonally downward to a low of 27 cents per dozen during March to June. Freight charges from Denmark to London are a little over 1 cent per dozen. The United Kingdom import tariff schedule on eggs is as follows: 2.5 cents per dozen weighing in excess of 1.7 pounds, 2.1 cents per dozen weighing from 1.5 to 1.7 pounds and 1.4 cents per dozen weighing less than 1.5 pounds.

Current and Prospective Shell Egg Supplies
in the United Kingdom

Month	1949-1950			1950-51		
	Home Production	Imports	Total	Home Production a/	Imports	Total
	Thousand Cases of 30 dozen					
Oct.	581	688	1,269	871	243	1,114
Nov.	351	560	911	526	b/280	806
Dec.	436	637	1,073	654	b/319	973
Jan.	1,063	582	1,645	1,595	b/291	1,886
Feb.	1,031	500	1,531	1,547	c/300	1,847

a/ Estimated 50 percent increase over 1949-50.
b/ At 50 percent of 1949-50
c/ Adjusted.

The Swiss egg market receives a significant portion of its supply from imports. Denmark, the Netherlands, France, Canada and the United States have been important supplies. The United States is experiencing increasing competition from the other exporting countries in this market as the exportable surplus of eggs from the other supplying countries has been mounting in the postwar years, and especially so since the devaluation of most foreign currencies in relation to the United States dollar. Since 1946, when Switzerland purchased 19 million dozen from the United States, sales to Switzerland have decreased annually and in 1949 totaled only 0.6 of a million dozen. The November 11 Swiss wholesale price for domestic eggs was 84 cents per dozen and the retail price was 94 cents. Imported eggs were at the same time between 74 and 96 cents per dozen, depending on the country of origin. The import tariff is about 2.8 cents per dozen plus an additional 2.8 cents which is paid into the compensation fund for the subsidy on indigenously produced eggs. The tariff is the same for all countries and there is no restriction on foreign exchange, but eggs are subject to import permits. Some shipments from the United States were made from New York early in December for about 49 cents per dozen F.A.S. the United States port.

The production of eggs in Belgium has exceeded domestic consumption since 1949. As of October 26, 1950, however, all exports of eggs have been suspended in an effort to force the domestic shell egg price down. Belgium imports of shell eggs in 1949 were only 1.2 million dozen and during the first 9 months of 1951 amounted to only 407 thousand dozen of which only 83.5 dozen were from the United States, with the remainder from the Netherlands. There is no tariff or monetary restriction on eggs imported into Belgium but there is a seasonal minimum price for imported eggs. The monthly minimum prices in cents per dozen for this marketing year 1950-51 is as follows:

[illegible]	Cents		Cents		Cents
September	62	January	58	May	40
October	73	February	50	June	34
November	74	March	43	July	48
December	66	April	38	August	52

The October retail price for eggs was approximately 82 cents per dozen and the farmers were receiving about 72 cents per dozen. The past relationship between Belgium domestic egg prices and minimum specified import prices has discouraged any sizeable imports and as this situation is most apt to continue imports will be rather spasmodic.

The arrival of eggs in the principal French markets from September through November 1950, have been about 70 percent above the average arrivals during the comparable period of 1949. Egg prices have been increasing seasonally but are still below last year's level. Paris wholesale prices have a wide range depending on quality and origin. In mid-November they ranged between 37 and 72 cents per dozen but mostly averaged about 58 cents per dozen. Retail prices averaged approximately 74 to 79 cents per dozen. French imports during the period December 19, 1950 through February 1951 are not expected to exceed 6

million dozen and about one-half of this quantity will come from Northern Africa. Eggs from Algeria, Morocco, Belgium and the Netherlands are on the Paris market. There is apparently no monetary restriction preventing imports of eggs from any country into France.

The Western German egg supply is increasing annually through larger indigenous production and substantial imports under trade agreements. The Western German demand for shell eggs continues strong. The 1949-50 per capita consumption was estimated at 126 eggs, while an increase of 12 percent is expected during 1950-51, but per capita consumption of eggs will still be about 20 percent below prewar. In principal marketing centers November wholesale prices averaged between 68 cents and 73 cents per dozen. Retail prices were approximately 15 percent higher. The tariff has been waived for the present time but importers must pay a 3 percent turn-over tax. Imports from the United States, however, are not probable at this time since the German Federal Republic must conserve dollar earnings and E.C.A. funds for importation of basic foods less available in European areas. Temporary embargoes on the imports of many commodities, including eggs, may be necessary to alleviate the critical financial situation.

Norway is expected to resume exports this month as their domestic production of eggs increases seasonally. Local wholesale prices for shell eggs in the middle of November were 49 cents per dozen, while retail prices at the same time were around 58 cents. Since their supply situation is ample and in consideration of their dollar shortage there is little possibility that licenses will be issued for imports of eggs from the United States in 1951. The Norwegian import duties plus other charges for shell eggs amounts to about 10 cents per dozen.

Egg production in Spain closely approximates the quantity consumed by the Spanish. Only very minor imports are received with the most of these coming from Europe. The retail prices for shell eggs in Madrid during the middle of November were between 65 cents and 75 cents per dozen, which is a drop of about 5 cents in the last two weeks. Prices in Barcelona are about 20 percent higher than in Madrid. However, this is usually the season when prices are rising. Considering that Spain feels a drastic need of dollar exchange for many items which they consider of greater importance to their development than imports of shell egg, it is very doubtful that the Spanish government will allow dollars for the importation of eggs. The Spanish customs duty for eggs amounts to approximately six cents per dozen. Imported eggs are distributed under the supervision of the rationing board who set the importers' margin and assign a locality in which they are to be sold.

Austria likewise has no dollars available for the purchase of eggs as imports of shell eggs are made from neighboring countries on an exchange basis to conserve dollar resources. The November 6 wholesale price of imported eggs on the Vienna market was 47 cents per dozen and eggs were retailing for 50.5 cents per dozen.

Denmark and the Netherlands, the primary exporters of shell eggs prior to World War II, shipped almost as many eggs to foreign markets during 1950 as before the war and several secondary exporters are shipping considerably in excess of their prewar levels. Poland and some Balkan countries have been exporting small quantities in postwar years but there are no available current export statistics for these or several of the Mediterrranean countries that exported shell eggs prior to the war.

Exports of Danish eggs during January-June 1950 totaled 70 million dozen eggs and the total for the year probably will be an all-time record for Denmark. The total annual exports of Danish eggs in 1949 were 106 million dozen and 1948 were 54 million dozen eggs. The new Danish-United Kingdom trade agreement, just negotiated, provides for 75 percent of Denmark's exportable surplus which is 10 percent less than specified under the contract effective during the previous year. Germany has taken about one-half of the remaining exports while Switzerland ranks as the third most important buyer of Danish eggs.

The Netherlands have regained a considerable portion of their prewar foreign egg market during 1950 as exports are almost three times larger than in 1949. There has been a strong export demand for Dutch eggs throughout 1950. Western Germany was much the largest market with the United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland purchasing smaller quantities. Prospects are for continued increasesin quantities of eggs for export sales.

The Australian exports of shell eggs during the last of 1950 have been smaller than a year earlier and commercial egg production during the third quarter of 1950 was 11 percent below the similar period during the previous year. Though the foreign sale of shell eggs was slightly greater during the year ending June 30, 1950 than in the preceding market year, total exports of shell eggs and egg products in terms of shell egg equivalents were down 15 percent in 1949-50 from the earlier year and egg production in the latter year was 4 percent below 1948-49.

Poultrymen feel the present Australian-United Kingdom contract prices for eggs are not high enough to warrant increases in production which is important since England receives over 80 percent of the exportable surplus of Australian eggs. Some poultrymen have left their farms to work in the cities because of the narrowing margins between receipts and rising costs. The consumption of eggs is increasing in Australia leaving an even smaller portion for export.

The Irish exportable surplus of eggs has been quite readily marketed in the United Kingdom throughout most of 1950 but the prospects for 1951 are termporary less bright since the Ireland-United Kingdom contract specifies a drop in price during February 1951. This prospect is expected to stop any expansion in egg output and may cause a slight cut back depending on the successful search for new export outlets. The Irish are expending considerable effort in searching for new European markets and some sales have already been arranged.

The Swedish egg production in 1950 is estimated at approximately 10 percent above 1949 and the export of eggs during January through June totaled 10,5 million dozen as compared to 1.4 million in the comparable period a year earlier. Practically all of the exports in 1950 went to Western Germany with minor quantities being sold to Switzerland. The exportable surplus during 1951 should be at least as large as in 1950 and maybe slightly larger.

Belgium egg production during the first half of 1950 has been estimated to be considerably above January-June 1949. Exports are primarily to Western Germany and Switzerland. Belgium can be expected to resume exports again early in 1951 as the flush production season gets underway.

Exports of Shell Eggs from Specified Countries
Annual 1939, 1948 to 1950

Country of origin	1939	1948	1949	1950 1/
	Million dozen	Million dozen	Million dozen	Million dozen
Canada	2/ 1.3	48.5	29.8	7.0
United States	2.7	24.9	18.4	18.0
Argentina	13.5	55.0	1.5	1.0
Belgium	3/ 11.8	--	2.6	7.0
Denmark	142.8	53.8	106.4	140.0
Ireland	25.4	21.7	33.8	33.0
France	3.4	.1	3.3	15.0
Netherlands	130.2	30.1	33.3	90.0
Norway	2.1	--	--	2.0
Sweden	1.0	--	7.7	18.0
Australia	4/ 10.1	14.5	9.6	23.1
Turkey	10.2	15.2	13.9	15.0

1/ Unofficially estimated.
2/ 1935-39.
3/ 1938
4/ For the 12 month period ending June 30 of the year listed.

Prepared or estimated from official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information. Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

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OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FPE-1-51 August 6, 1951

Foreign markets for Eggs and Poultry accredited under the National Poultry Improvement Plan 1947-50.

Total numbers of hatching eggs and poultry for breeding reported under the National Poultry Improvement Plan 1/ as exported from the United States have increased steadily from 132,531 in 1947 to 479,466 in 1950.

Exports of hatching eggs and poultry as reported by N.P.I.P. 1947-50 2/

	1947	1948	1949	1950
Eggs	1,519	2,147	98,456	286,401
Chicks	114,680	191,618	142,778	94,918
Cockerels	15,532	49,836	109,058	85,567
Pullets	800	10,969	14,254	12,580

2/ Also exported were 60 turkey poults in 1947, 2,160 turkey eggs and 5,150 turkey poults in 1949 and 70 turkeys and 500 turkey poults in 1950.

These increases have not been uniform for the 4 categories reported, however. Exports of eggs are reported to have increased each year. Exports of chicks were greatest in 1948 and decreased in 1949 and again in 1950. Exports of both cockerels and pullets were at their highest level in 1949 and decreased in 1950. This change in the relative importance of live birds to hatching eggs in total exports from 1949 to 1950 was almost

1/ Under the Plan sales from each state are reported to supervisory officials in the state of destination. On foreign shipments the corresponding copy of the record of sale is forwarded to officials in foreign countries through the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S.D.A. Sales to Canada under NPIP were not recorded and sales to other countries are only partially reported, thus this report is not to be considered as a complete record of NPIP exports.

entirely due to changes in imports by Cuba, by far the most important market for NPIP poultry and eggs. Excluding the sales to this one country, the exports of hatching eggs and poultry under the NPIP during 1950 have made considerable increases in every category. The recorded export under the NPIP is mainly to Western Hemisphere countries.

Cuba reported imports of 1.7 million chicks in 1950, of which only 25,000 were NPIP. Practically all of these imports came from the United States. This trade strengthened throughout the year even though a tax of 5 cents per bird was levied late in 1950. These sizable chick imports were the backbone of the Cuban commercial broiler industry although there was a small local production by commercial hatcheries. Some broiler producers are giving serious consideration to the possible establishment of hatcheries and the government has been encouraging this by authorizing the duty free entry of fertile eggs. The specialized broiler production, concentrated mainly in the Habana area probably accounted for about 15 percent of the total 22 to 23 million fowl produced for the Cuban market last year. There has been some general improvement in the quality of birds used for egg production but most of the egg and poultry production in Cuba is still under relatively primitive conditions. The wholesale price for ungraded eggs was about 15 dollars per case in January 1950 and rose to more than 19 dollars per case in December last year. Commercial broilers advanced in price from 40 cents per pound live weight in January 1950 to around 52 cents per pound in December of the same year. The Cuban Ministry of Agriculture reports the following imports of poultry in 1950.

	1950		
Item	Jan.-June	July-Dec.	Total
	Number	Number	Number
Baby chicks	591,718	1,133,656	1,725,374
Broilers	1/126,875	19,155	146,030
Hens	13,161	4,320	17,481

1/ It is possible that some baby chicks have been reported in this figure.

Shipments to Puerto Rico from the United States are treated as interstate trade so there are no special regulations, or duties, and charges levied on this commerce.

Baby chick exports to Venezuela for production of eggs and meat are in much larger quantities than indicated by the NPIP reports. Imported chicks, chicken and eggs consistently sell at a lower price in Venezuela than the local products. Consequently, Venezuelan poultrymen are currently asking their government for both a reduction in the duty on poultry feed and further restrictions on the import of mature chickens, live or frozen.

Chile reported imports of approximately 22,000 baby chicks of improved strains and 60 dozen hatching eggs during January-November 1950. The production of eggs in Chile was ample for domestic demand in 1950 and poultrymen are requesting that the export of eggs be permitted during 1951.

A poultry-growers association was formed in Ecuador last year and there has been considerable interest in improvement of the quality and in increasing the quantity of egg and poultry produced. One organization imported 5,000 hybrid baby chicks for egg production in 1950 and has indicated an interest in buying stock at a later date for breeding purposes.

Mexico imports a considerable number of chicks from the United States for specialized broiler operations near Mexico City and also imports chicks and eggs for breed improvement. The merit and controls of this particular trade are currently under observation by Mexican authorities.

Information concerning the effective regulations, duties, and other requirements for exports of poultry and hatching eggs to specific countries may be obtained by contacting a field office of the United States Department of Commerce, a Consulate of the specific foreign country, or an international airline. In addition, Agricultural Attaches, stationed at American Embassies in most foreign capitals, may be able to provide information unavailable elsewhere.

Prepared in the Livestock and Wool Division, OFAR by Charles C. Wilson.

UNITED STATES: Exports of eggs and poultry for breeding as reported by National Poultry Improvement Plan during 1947 1/

COUNTRY	EGGS	CHICKS	COCKERELS	PULLETS
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Argentina	--	25	--	- -
Brazil	587	--	1	- -
British West Indies	35	540	--	- -
Canada	2/	2/	2/	2/
Chile	--	256	14	- -
Cuba	225	52,224	13,017	- -
Ecuador	--	--	52	- -
Hawaii	--	50	--	- -
Hong Kong	30	--	--	- -
Mexico	232	3,585	1,521	800
Puerto Rico	100	53,125	--	- -
Siam	72	--	--	- -
Spain	--	--	2	- -
Sweden	200	--	--	- -
Union of South Africa	38	--	--	- -
Venezuela	--	4,800	--	- -
Virgin Islands	--	75	925	- -
Total	1,519	114,680	15,532	800

1/ Not included was export of 60 turkey poults to the Netherlands.
2/ Not available.

UNITED STATES: Exports of eggs and poultry for breeding as reported by National Poultry Improvement Plan during 1948

COUNTRY	EGGS	CHICKS	COCKERELS	PULLETS
	Number	Number	Number	Number
Argentina	50	--	--	--
Belgium	--	200	--	--
Brazil	100	--	15	--
British Guiana	25	--	--	--
British West Indies	730	7,330	6	774
Canada	1/	1/	1/	1/
Colombia	25	--	--	--
Costa Rica	--	150	--	200
Cuba	--	162,437	48,432	6,600
Ecuador	100	75	--	--
France	200	--	22	--
Holland	50	--	--	--
Italy	12	--	--	--
Japan	45	--	--	--
Mexico	224	9,202	454	250
Netherlands West Indies	--	375	--	--
Panama	--	10	--	--
Philippines	5	7,050	--	2,850
Puerto Rico	--	4,100	800	125
Siam	145	--	--	--
Union of South Africa	436	--	3	--
Uruguay	--	64	70	170
Venezuela	--	625	34	--
Total	2,147	191,618	49,836	10,969

1/ Not available.

UNITED STATES: Exports of eggs and poultry for breeding as reported by National Poultry Improvement Plan during 1949

COUNTRY	EGGS	CHICKS	COCKERELS	PULLETS
	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers
Belgium	840	25	--	--
Brazil	89	--	--	--
British Guiana	20	--	--	120
British West Indies	122	625	1,450	2,000
Chile	--	--	2	--
China	200	--	--	--
Costa Rica	--	16	--	--
Cuba1/	94,328	137,284	90,445	7,394
Dutch Guiana	--	--	50	200
Dutch West Indies	--	200	612	--
Ecuador	--	--	15	50
France	--	--	50	200
Hawaii	140	--	--	--
Honduras	52	--	--	--
Japan	--	--	60	65
Mexico2/	204	585	381	175
Netherlands	200	--	--	--
Philippines	--	1,893	549	1,270
Puerto Rico	720	1,800	14,000	2,700
Siam	145	--	--	--
Switzerland	131	--	--	--
Turkey	190	--	--	--
Union of South Africa	1,000	--	--	--
Uruguay	75	50	20	80
Venezuela	--	100	74	--
Virgin Islands	--	200	1,350	--
Total	98,456	142,778	109,058	14,254

1/ Cuba also imported 2,160 turkey eggs and 5,000 turkey poults.
2/ Mexico also imported 150 turkey poults.

UNITED STATES: Exports of eggs and poultry for breeding as reported by National Poultry Improvement Plan during 1950

COUNTRY	EGGS	CHICKS	COCKERELS	PULLETS
	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers	Numbers
Alaska	--	6,326	700	1,150
Austria	40	--	--	--
Belgium	880	--	--	--
Brazil	200	--	--	--
British Guiana	--	50	--	200
British West Indies	--	--	25	25
Canal Zone	--	--	200	--
Costa Rica	--	56	--	--
Chile	--	8	--	--
Cuba1/	259,920	25,243	28,016	--
Ecuador	--	--	10	--
Guatemala	--	--	1	--
Germany	30	--	--	--
Greece	360	--	--	--
Hawaii	140	650	--	50
Italy	181	--	--	--
Japan	1,636	25	5	20
Mexico2/	1,080	1,203	555	5,650
Netherlands West Indies	--	500	--	--
Dutch Guiana	--	--	--	50
Panama	--	--	400	100
Peru	830	--	--	--
Philippines3/	--	1,094	130	925
Puerto Rico	20,860	59,313	52,155	4,300
Siam	174	--	--	--
Switzerland	50	--	--	--
Uruguay	--	150	--	--
Venezuela	20	100	--	--
Virgin Islands	--	200	3,370	110
Total	286,401	94,918	85,567	12,580

1/ Cuba also imported 70 turkeys.
2/ Mexico also imported 500 turkey poults.
3/ Philippines also imported 30 turkey eggs.

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, Livestock and Wool Division.

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FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

OFAR

OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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INDICATED 1951 WORLD EGG PRODUCTION

The production of eggs during 1951 by selected countries 1/ is indicated at approximately 1 percent above that of 1950 according to information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. The change in the level of production has not been uniform in all countries in as much as the output is lower in a number of surplus producing countries in Northwestern Europe. These decreases are more than offset by the increases in other countries, principally the United States, Western Germany, France, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands and Finland. The indicated 1951 level of production will exceed the average prewar output of this selected group of countries by about one-half. This is due largely to the 70 percent increase in production in the United States which accounts for more than one half of all the reported egg output of the 21 countries reporting in both 1951 and the prewar years.

The indicated increases in egg production in 1951 are the result of (1) higher chicken numbers in many countries during 1951, resulting in turn either from the large carry-over from 1950 or the large hatch of 1951, and (2) the better rate-of-lay in a number of countries due to improved quality of birds, better disease control and better feeding.

In the feed-importing countries, feed is becoming higher in price and more difficult to obtain. Consequently, governmental policy has been directed toward keeping the size of flocks in direct proportion to the amount of feed that can be home grown by the poultry keepers. This policy already has resulted in leveling off or decreases in egg

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1/ Includes Canada, United States, Cuba, Austria, Belgium, Denmark Finland, France, Western Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Turkey Argentina and Australia.

production in several countries and will continue to affect these and other countries. It has succeeded in promoting the utilization of indigenous feed but has also limited specialized enterprises.

The Canadian output of eggs in 1951 is expected to increase slightly over 1950 due to the larger hatch in 1951. The United States output is expected to slightly exceed that of 1950. In Western Europe, production is expected to increase considerably in Austria, Finland, and Western Germany and to a lesser extent in France, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands. Production is expected to decrease in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Production will increase slightly in Turkey, Argentina and the Union of South Africa and will decrease somewhat in Australia.

United States, egg production in the first eight months of 1951 was about 1 percent below the same period in 1950 due to the smaller number of layers on farms. However, the number of layers will about equal last year's numbers in September and October and will be up in November and December. This, with the rate-of-lay for nearly every month of 1951 higher than for 1950, is expected to result in a slight increase in total egg production for 1951.

In Canada, egg production in 1951 was slightly below 1950 levels during both the second quarter and the first six months of the year. However, the chick hatch in June 1951 was about 20 percent over that of 1950 and the number of chickens on farms showed an increase of 16 percent. This, with the very strong domestic demand for eggs, indicates a slight increase in production in 1951 as compared to 1950.

In Austria, chicken numbers in 1951 are at a somewhat higher level than in 1950 and management practices are improving. Egg prices are high relative to prices for other foods such as pork and potatoes and the controlled price for grain affords a favorable egg-feed price ratio. It is expected that egg production in 1951 will be about 11 percent above that of 1950.

In Belgium, the number of laying hens in 1951 is less than in 1950 and, despite an increase in the rate-of-lay, the 1951 egg production is expected to be less than that of 1950. This is largely due to the unfavorable egg-feed ratio of late 1950 and early 1951 which resulted from relatively low egg prices and high prices for feed.

In Denmark, a decrease in the number of layers is expected to more than offset the increasing rate-of-lay and to result in a lower production of eggs in 1951 than in 1950. As with most other feed importing countries, an unfavorable egg-feed ratio has resulted from relatively low prices for eggs and high prices for feed.

In Finland, the number of chickens carried over into 1951 was higher than in 1950. It is expected that egg production in 1951 will be about 7 percent over that of 1950 and there will be a surplus of 15 to 20 million eggs available for export.

In France, the 1951 production of eggs is expected to be about 6 percent above that of 1950, largely as a result of an increased rate-of-lay. Even though the egg-feed ratio is less favorable than in 1950, there is a lack of a profitable alternative to poultry raising. The poultry industry, almost exclusively one of small farm flocks, expects the market for poultry meat to be favorable and, therefore, will not reduce the number of chickens.

In Germany, chicken numbers and egg production in 1951 continued the postwar increase. Large numbers of eggs were being imported in 1951 and this is expected to continue even though production of eggs in 1951 is expected to be about 15 percent higher than in 1950.

In Greece, the number of layers in 1951 is estimated to be about 4 percent above that of 1950. This, with the higher rate-of-lay resulting from better feeding and disease control and better quality of birds is expected to raise the 1951 output of eggs by about 11 percent over that of 1950.

In Ireland, egg production for 1951 is expected to be about 16 percent below that of 1950. Producer dissatisfaction with the British market for eggs and the relatively more profit enterprises such as beef and dairy cattle are in the main responsible for this shift to an almost completely domestic egg market. In addition, high feed costs and high mortality from disease have resulted in a 12 percent decrease in poultry numbers on June 1 in 1951 as compared to 1950.

In Italy, poultry raising is almost entirely confined to small farm flocks. It is estimated that chicken numbers are gradually increasing and that egg production in 1951 will be about 7 percent greater than in 1950. Feed prospects are relatively favorable and increasing interest is being shown in improving the quality of birds and in disease control.

In the Netherlands, the number of hens and pullets carried over into 1951 was considerably larger than that of one year earlier. Despite feed restrictions in the early months of 1951, egg production for the year is expected to be up at least 3 percent above that of 1950. The lack of a contract with the United Kingdom in late 1950 has resulted in higher prices for Netherlands producers and in large exports to Western Germany in 1951.

In Norway, the small hatch of 1950 has resulted in a decrease in chicken numbers in 1951 and an increased proportion of second year layers. This, with the sharply reduced feed allocations, especially to commercial poultry producers, has resulted in a decrease in the rate of egg production in 1951. Egg output for year is expected to be about 11 percent below that of 1950.

In Sweden, chicken numbers in April 1951 were slightly below those of 1950 since the increase in young chickens did not quite offset the decrease in laying hens. Due to the decrease in chicken numbers and

the relatively difficult feed situation, egg output for 1951 is expected to be about 2 percent below that of 1950. Export markets continue good with Western Germany the major customer.

In Switzerland, the number of laying hens has declined slightly because sales of eggs and poultry are not as profitable as in past years. Thus, a slight decrease in egg output in 1951 is likely. Since consumption remains stable, imports of eggs will probably increase somewhat in 1951.

In the United Kingdom, poultry numbers as of March 1951 were about 3 percent higher than for one year earlier but receipts at egg packing stations during the first half of 1951 were nearly 8 percent below those of a year earlier. Imports of shell eggs during the first half of the year were 47 percent lower than for the same period in 1950 and no eggs have been sold "off the ration". The more than usual cold and wet weather through the winter and spring until the middle of June has been in part responsible for the decreased receipts and packing stations and there may be a shift to autumn and winter egg production underway. Any increase in output during the last half of 1951 due to this shift in production will not be enough to offset the earlier low production and the output for the year is expected to be less than for 1950.

In Turkey, chicken numbers are considered to be gradually increasing. More attention is being given to disease control and improved feeding and breeding. Egg output for 1951 is expected to be slightly above that of 1950.

In Argentina, the production of eggs during the year ending July 31, 1951 was about 10 percent over the previous year and another increase is expected during 1951-52. Increased domestic demand is expected to take most of the greater output and exports of eggs are not expected to exceed those of 1950. Prices to producers for eggs were satisfactory in 1950 and have increase more than costs thus far in 1951.

In the Union of South Africa, the government egg purchasing program has proved an incentive to producers to increase chicken numbers. This has resulted in an increase in egg production during the latter part of the 1950-51 season which has continued into the 1951-52 season. Prices to producers are favorable and Newcastle disease appears to be under control.

In Australia, egg production during the first half of 1951 was about 3 percent less than for the same period of 1950. This decline in output has resulted from a decrease in the number of laying hens. Chicken mortality has been high due to unusually hot weather and a number of commercial poultry farms have gone out of business. Feed shortage and high prices and the increased numbers of poultry killed for meat have also contributed to the decline in output of eggs.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

EGGS: Number produced 1/ in specified countries, average 1934-38, annual 1946-1950, indicated 1951

Continent and country	Average 1934-38	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	Indicated 1951
	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million	Million
NORTH AMERICA							
Canada	2,638	3,883	4,484	4,274	3,774	3,662	3,700
United States	35,498	55,590	55,252	55,158	56,629	60,046	60,500
Cuba	320	300	312	288	318	320	320
Dominican Republic	-	60	60	60	60	60	-
Guatemala	-	-	-	-	50	-	-
Panama	-	-	52	-	54	-	55
EUROPE							
Albania	143	-	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	663	270	285	350	400	540	600
Belgium	1,693	1,100	1,380	1,440	1,900	2,100	2,000
Bulgaria	682	-	-	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia 2/	1,958	776	903	1,110	1,380	-	-
Denmark	1,979	883	992	1,392	1,870	2,100	2,000
Finland	317	93	117	176	266	317	340
France	6,200	6,200	6,300	6,100	6,800	7,100	7,500
Germany (Tri-Zone)	4,500	2,150	1,975	2,250	2,800	4,100	4,700
Greece	550	349	376	384	390	450	500
Hungary	1,050	-	650	750	-	-	-
Ireland	1,086	801	733	844	1,014	1,020	860
Italy	5,500	3,600	4,300	4,450	4,550	5,000	5,350
Luxembourg	40	-	30	35	40	40	40
Netherlands	1,978	480	1,052	1,159	1,520	1,900	1,950
Norway	369	155	198	263	340	450	400
Poland and Danzig	3,500	2,276	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	250	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rumania	1,500 3/	532	-	-	-	-	-
Spain	1,700	-	1,992	1,800	1,800	1,920	-
Sweden	900	1,149	1,217	1,335	1,334	1,464	1,428
Switzerland	423	391	442	520	559	530	520
United Kingdom:							
Farm 4/	5/ 3,871	2,418	2,600	3,000	3,500	-	-
Total 4/	5/ 5,098	3,850	4,000	4,300	5,000	5,800	5,500
Yugoslavia	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASIA							
Lebanon	-	65	60	48	42	45	-
Palestine	108	200	-	-	-	-	-
Syria	92	120	90	110	120	-	-
Turkey	1,003	863	895	852	850	856	860
Japan	3,553	618	663	790	1,214	1,568	-
India	-	2,794	-	-	-	1,082	-
Pakistan	-	571	-	-	-	-	-
Philippine Islands	-	240	400	605	652	740	-
SOUTH AMERICA							
Argentina	1,127	-	-	-	-	2,700	2,900
Chile	-	520	460	370	400	400	-
Paraguay	-	-	100	110	120	120	-
Peru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	289	358	326	330	291	300	-
AFRICA							
Egypt	751	-	-	-	-	-	-
French Morocco	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Union of South Africa	-	-	372	-	800	900	950
OCEANIA							
Australia 6/	708	1,358	1,470	1,431	1,443	1,350	1,300
New Zealand	430	-	-	-	450	-	-

1/ Relates to farm production in Canada and the United States, but data for many countries not explicit on this point. 2/ Postwar numbers possibly under reported. 3/ Fifty-eight counties. 4/ Year ending May of year indicated. 5/ Three-year average. 6/ Commercial production for year ending in June of year reported.